



**United Spinal
Association**

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January 17, 2020

2020 FEB -3 A 10:02

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Docket RM2017-3

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of United Spinal Association and the 55 thousand Americans living with spinal cord injuries and disorders (SCI/D) that we serve, I am writing to urge you to reconsider your proposal to increase postage rates several times the rate of inflation. These increases, which are estimated to reach 7 percent per year, will have a negative impact on our ability to serve wheelchair users, paralyzed veterans, and other individuals with disabilities in critical need of our support.

For over 70 years, United Spinal Association has empowered people living with SCI/D to achieve and maintain the highest levels of independence, health and personal fulfillment. Outreach through direct mail has always been a crucial component to serving our members and fulfilling our mission. Today, direct mail remains the single-largest source of donation income to our nonprofit. It enables our organization to:

- Advocate for greater access to healthcare, mobility equipment, public transportation, rehabilitation, community services and supports, and the built environment
- Empower our members with resources, one-on-one assistance, and peer support
- Promote independence through employment opportunities and community integration of wheelchair users into mainstream society

Fulfilling our mission is critically dependent on our ability to operate and develop resources efficiently and in a cost-effective way. United Spinal Association is not able to increase our budget to keep pace with postage increases totaling 40 percent over the next five years. Any expense, such as postage, that exceeds our means will result in necessary reductions in our use of mail. Such a reduction will lead to less revenue, limiting our reach and reducing the amount our organization can spend on greatly needed programs and services for the disability community.

United Spinal Association urges the Postal Regulatory Commission to reconsider its proposal.

Sincerely,

James Weisman
President & CEO